Volume 1
Naoe Kita
KARA NO TEIKOKU
THE EMPTY EMPIRE

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By Naoe Kita

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CMX

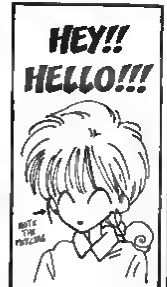
BEYOND THE YEAR 2500 A.D.: HE APPEARED, TO UNITE THE WORLD--
THE EMPEROR IDEA.
UNDER HIS RULE, THE WORLD THRIVED IN A PEACE THAT LASTED MANY YEARS.
YET HIS SUDDEN, UNTIMELY DEATH THREATENED TO PUSH THE WORLD TO THE BRINK OF CONFUSION.
EMPEROR IDEA!!

AN EMPIRE WITHOUT AN EMPEROR...
AGH!!
I MUST ESCAPE...
...IS BOUND TO BECOME A LAWLESS WASTELAND.
!!
I'VE FOUND YOU.
I'LL BE KILLED...
WEEZE
DAMN --
GAH!!
SWOOD
STOMP
GOOD NIGHT.
!!
CLICK
BOOM
FWOOH
HAVING TROUBLE?
GRIP
WAH...
AIN'T YOU JUST A SPITTING IMAGE
HMM.

...THE MEMORIES IDEA CULTIVATED THROUGH HIS LIFE EXPERIENCE WILL BE AS DEAD AS IDEA HIMSELF.
WE CAN TEACH THE CLONE ALL WE WANT ABOUT WHO IDEA WAS... YET THE FACT STANDS HE WILL NOT HAVE THE EXACT SAME UPBRINGING AS IDEA.
IF WE CLONE HIM NOW, HE WILL BE A MERE BABY.
THOUGH, BY SUBMERGING HIM IN CULTURE FLUID FOR A FEW DAYS, WE CAN ADVANCE HIS AGE TO THAT OF IDEA'S...
YOUR GRACE!
DAMN YOU, KID! GENIUS IS NO EXCUSE FOR IMPERTINENCE!
THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER! LOOK AT THE STATE OF OUR WORLD...
SLAM
IDEA ALSO EARNED SPECIAL... ABILITIES.
I CANNOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.
I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT HE WILL BECOME THE SAME GREAT PERSON AS IDEA.
MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO...
YOUR GRACE...
ONE YEAR AFTER IDEA'S DEATH, AND HALF THE WORLD IS A SLUM.
.....
CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK
THE IMPERIAL PALACE.
I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. WITH OUR PRESENT DAY SCIENCE WE CAN'T PRODUCE A FULL-GROWN CLONE.
YOU SEE, ONE THING IS MISSING.
EXPERIENCE. EVERYTHING THAT FORMED HIS MEMORIES. WITHOUT THOSE MEMORIES...
?!
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, EIRI! THE PEOPLE ARE EAGERLY AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THEIR BELOVED EMPEROR!
HE JUST WON'T BE THE SAME PERSON.
OH, I CAN'T MAKE THE SAME FACE. BUT, I CAN GIVE HIM THE SAME PERSONALITY.

RIRIKA?!
WHAT? YOU TALK PRETTY BIG FOR SUCH A LITTLE GIRL.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THERE'S A PRICE FOR MESSING AROUND ON MY TERRITORY.
HEY-- WATCH WHAT YOU SAY! THIS GIRL MUST BE EIRI'S "BEAST TAMER," RIRIKA!
...THE EMPTY EMPIRE?
WILL AN EMPEROR APPEAR TO CLAIM...
AN EMPIRE WITHOUT AN EMPEROR...
THE WORLD NOW APPROACHES THE STATE IT WAS IN BEFORE IDEA'S APPEARANCE.
IT IS NATURAL FOR THE PEOPLE TO BE CONFUSED. IT IS WHAT WE WANTED.
CRUNCH
WHAT IS IT?
HEY! WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
HUH?
SHARP
LOOKS LIKE HE MIGHT BE.
OH, MAN--HE'S SOAKED IN BLOOD.
LIKE IT MATTERS. SEE IF HE'S CARRYING ANY VALUABLES.
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN?
SHE WORK FOR A CIRCUS OR SOMETHIN?
SWOO
SHALL I EXPLAIN IT TO YOU? IT MEANS I TAME WILD BEASTS. LIKE YOU. WITH THIS.
I USE THIS WHIP HERE TO BEAT WEAKLINGS INTO SUBMISSION. THUS THE NICKNAME, "BEAST TAMER."
WAAAAH
HELP!!!
H-HEY! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!!
WHA--
CRACK
SLASH

I'M NOT...
I. . AM NOT... IDEA...
HEY-- WHAT'S GOING ON?
SHOK
FWUMP
KYAAAAAAAAAA! YOU'RE ALIVE??
HE IS. !
EIRI--
WHAT HAPPENED, RIRIKA?
WHO'S SHE CALLING "THUGS," HMM?
FWOO
IF IT'S A CYBORG OR A ROBOT, I CAN ALWAYS SELL IT FOR SCRAP .. HMM?
NOW, LET'S SEE IF HE'S CARRYING ANY VALUABLES.
MAN. NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE SO MANY THUGS CREEPIN' AROUND SO CLOSE TO THE IMPERIAL PALACE.
SCAMPER
GRIP
!!
100% ORGANIC. DAMN IT. CAN'T SELL HIM. OH--
SUCH A PRETTY FACE.

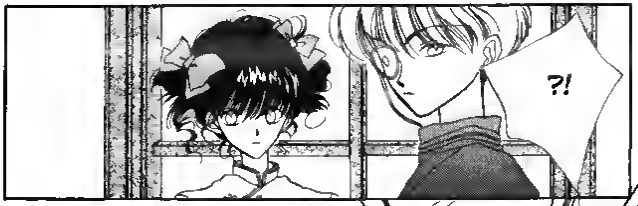


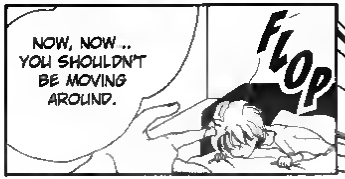
Hey, long time no see!! this is your author, Naoe Kita speaking. It really has been a long time since I've published a comic. Publishers must have been wondering what the heck I was up to for so long. I spent all of last year drawing like crazy, though. Whenever you see any of my comics, don't hesitate to check them out. I wonder how this story will evolve next year. Hmmm.. All right. I'll see you later.

EDITOR'S NOTE

MOST JAPANESE MANGA IS USUALLY SERIALIZED FIRST IN MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS. WHEN A SERIES IS COLLECTED INTO BOOK FORM, THE ADVERTISING THAT ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE SERIALIZED VERSION IS DROPPED, LEAVING SPACE TO FILL ON VARIOUS PAGES. THE AUTHOR IS USUALLY GIVEN THIS SPACE TO ADD SOME SORT OF COMMENTARY. NAOE KITA'S COMMENTS HERE AND ELSEWHERE ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE 1990s

WHEN HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS HE KEPT SAYING "I'M NOT IDEA."
IDEA?
YET...HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM. AND THEY SAID THEY'RE TRYING TO REVIVE HIM IN THE... PALACE, SO...YOU THINK HE MIGHT BE...
NO, HE COULDN'T BE...
HE'S WAKING.





NO--I DON'T KNOW. WHY?
HOW ABOUT "THE EMPEROR IDEA?"
THE REAL QUESTION IS-- DOES THE NAME "IDEA" MAKE YOU FEEL ANYTHING?
UH...
YOUR FACE IS IDENTICAL TO IDEA'S.
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ME?
YOU WERE RAMBLING INCOHERENTLY WHEN YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS. SAYING "I'M NOT IDEA" OVER AND OVER.
IDEA'S WHAT?
I HAVE BEEN RESEARCHING METHODS FOR IDEA'S RESTORATION. YET. . MIGHT YOU BE IDEA'S--
HUH?

NO WAY! YOU FORGOT YOUR NAME?
DO YOU MEAN YOU HAVE AMNESIA?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT--
SHOOM
...??
I--I DON'T KNOW.
GRIN
JUST STAY HERE UNTIL YOUR WOUNDS ARE HEALED. THEN YOU'RE FREE TO GO.
WELL, RIRIKA, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO HELPED HIM, ANYWAY.
UM...
I WON'T WANT TO HELP HIM.
HEY--
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE CARE OF HIM?!
...?
WHAT DO WE DO, EIRI?
...HMM.
WOW, YOU'RE GONNA BE A HANDFUL. CAN YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING?
...?

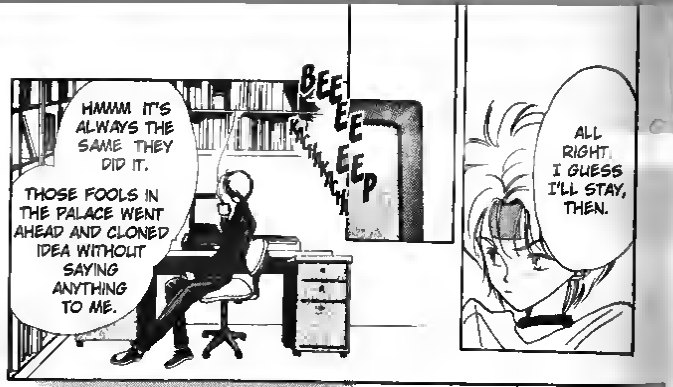
REMEMBER HIS REAL NAME, THAT IS.
DOES IT MATTER? HE'S PRETTY AND ALL.
RIRIKA. ROSE IS A GIRL'S NAME.
REAL NAME...
BESIDES, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WE CALL HIM ANYWAY. ONCE HE GETS HIS MEMORIES BACK, HE'LL REMEMBER.
ROSE! GET THOSE BAGS! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO EAT ALL OF IT, ANYWAY...
I GOT MY HANDS FULL ALREADY. AND YOU'RE FORGETTING I'M WOUNDED.
CHATTER CHATTER
WE HAD SOME REAL LAUGHS LAST TIME, HUH.
HEY THERE, RIRIKA.
OH, MAN!
YOU KNOW WHAT--
OW!
SLAP
I HARDLY THINK CARRYING GROCERIES IS GOING TO HURT YOUR FOREHEAD.
MAN. WE DON'T KNOW YOUR IDENTITY. YOUR MEMORIES WON'T COME BACK. HOW LONG ARE WE GONNA HAVE TO PUT UP WITH YOU?

OH YEAH?
I DON'T KNOW HIS BROTHER, OR HIS RELATIVE OR SOMETHING.
.....
WHAT? WHY DO I HAVE TO--
WHY CAN'T WE JUST CALL HIM "IDEA?" I MEAN, THEY LOOK ALIKE AND ALL.
UH...YEAH, SURE.
YES. RIRIKA--YOU MUST GIVE HIM A NAME.
BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES, WOULD YOU MIND IF I PERFORMED SOME BLOOD AND DNA TESTS?
THAT WAY, I CAN DISCERN YOUR IDENTITY.
A NAME...
SHOK
HE'S GOT THAT FLOWER-SHAPED... SCAR(?).. OR A... BRUISE. SO HOW ABOUT .. ROSE?
BUT HE'S BEEN SAYING HE ISN'T IDEA. WE MUST CHOOSE ANOTHER NAME
OH ..
ALL RIGHT.

I guess this is my first time writing a main stream comic. You could say "It's about time"...though, I don't know. I wasn't exactly getting tired of the small-time... this comic right here-sometimes I find it hard to believe I'm really writing it! It's really nice to reach a whole bunch of new readers, though... if you really like this one, please, feel free to go search out my previous works! I mean, it's going to be quite a search, because these don't even sell the things in many used book stores.
Maybe because the readers love them so much they wouldn't dare sell them back?! If you find them, buy them! then again, I don't search for my own books very often.
How dare you strain to read my tiny print! Respect people's personal space, please!!
GRAK
HEY-- LET'S GET OUTTA HERE
SWOOSH
AHHH
SCAMPER SCAMPER
ROSE, WHAT IF YOU JUST PRETENDED TO BE IDEA FOREVER?
WOW. JUST DROP IDEA'S NAME AND EVEN TOUGH GUYS LIKE THAT FREAK OUT.
KRRR
I DON'T THINK SO
YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT BODYGUARD, THOUGH.

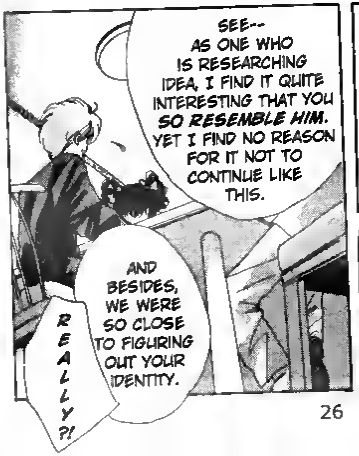
I WAS THINKING--- MAYBE I'LL BECOME THE NEW EMPEROR?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? YOU CAN'T REPLACE IDEA...
HEY--
RIRIKA?
ROSE! I FORGOT TO BRING MY WHIP
DMN
WITHOUT MY WHIP, I'M POWERLESS.
TA-DA
IT'S IDEA! RIGHT HERE!!
YOU GUYS SHOULD BE TREMBLING IN FEAR--LOOK! LOOK HERE!
WHUH?
MAN, YOU THINK ALL THAT ABOUT IDEA DYIN' MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LIE?
GRR
WOW. IT REALLY IS UNCANNY.
WHAT THE HECK--? WHOA! THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE HIM!

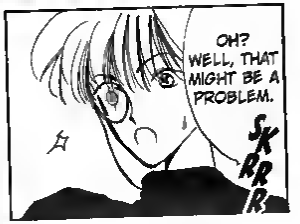
HMMMMM
DO YOU NEED MORE EGGS? HERE! TAKE AS MANY AS YOU WANT!!
THIS IS HEAVY.
.....
.....
YES, MA'AM, WE'D LIKE SOME MEAT, TOO. EMPEROR IDEA NEEDS PLENTY OF FOOD IF HE'S GOING TO RECOVER FULLY!
MAN...
WHAT'S WITH HER...?
AS YOU WISH
SMIRK
THIS OPPORTUNITY IS TOO GOOD TO PASS UP...!
YEAH?
SO!!
SHOOO
.....
FWOOSH
HM?
CRACK
IT BREAKS!
SNATCH
SIZE
A- ARE YOU EMPEROR IDEA?!
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! WE NEED EGGS!!
OF COURSE, IT BREAKS!
NOD NOD
I WOULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINED IDEA WOULD BE ALIVE, MUCH LESS IN A PLACE LIKE THIS! AND THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE HIM WITH MY OWN OLD EYES!!
WOW
EWWW
YEAH?
UM--
WELL. IF YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT...

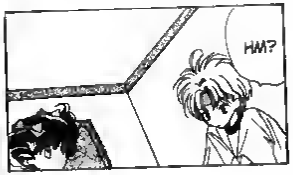

BEEEEEEP
HMMM IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME THEY DID IT.
THOSE FOOLS IN THE PALACE WENT AHEAD AND CLONED IDEA WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING TO ME.
ALL RIGHT, I GUESS I'LL STAY, THEN.

LET'S EAT!!
YAY
WELL, THEN--
HUNGRY

I TOLD YOU, I AM NOT IDEA. THIS IS IT I'M LEAVING!!
SLAM
CHOMP CHOMP
FOOD FOREVER!
ROSE! YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE!


SEE-- AS ONE WHO IS RESEARCHING IDEA, I FIND IT QUITE INTERESTING THAT YOU SO RESEMBLE HIM. YET I FIND NO REASON FOR IT NOT TO CONTINUE LIKE THIS.
AND BESIDES, WE WERE SO CLOSE TO FIGURING OUT YOUR IDENTITY.
REALLY?!


OH? WELL, THAT MIGHT BE A PROBLEM.
SKRRR


HM?

NOW, THE QUESTION IS, SHOULD I TELL ROSE ABOUT IT?
HEY, RIRIKA, I BEEN MEANING TO ASK. WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOU TWO?
HM?
YOU AND EIRI, I MEAN.
HE'S MY BOY-FRIEND.
WHAT?!

I WANDERED FROM PLACE TO PLACE, AND EVENTUALLY... EIRI TOOK ME IN.
THE TRUTH IS, I'M PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS YOU. I WAS ABANDONED AS A CHILD.
OR, WELL-- I KINDA WISH HE WAS.
DAZE
HA HA OH
HE'S SO COOL AND ALL...
REASON TO EXIST ...
THUMP
WHEN EIRI TOLD ME, "IT'S A JOY TO HAVE YOU AROUND. YOU MAKE ME HAPPY," I...
...WELL, I FEEL LIKE I COULD DO ANYTHING FOR HIM.
RIGHT WHEN I WAS QUESTIONING IF THERE WAS ANY REASON TO EXIST, EIRI FOUND ME.
HA HA
BOOM
ROSE! WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU UP TO NOW?! YOU WANT ME TO KILL YOU?!
BAM
SWOOP

WHAT... ...THE HECK?
CLICK
FWOO
ALWAYS "EIRI" THIS AND "EIRI" THAT!
!!
SLAP
DID YOU DO THAT ON PURPOSE?
!!
FORGET IT.
BANG
SMACK
GAH
WAH
"FORGET IT."
YEAH.

THEY'VE FAILED... I'M NOT IDEA...
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE BEEN... RUNNING FROM SOME-THING.
WHERE'S ROSE ?
YEAH--IT WAS NUTS LIKE SOMEONE UP ABOVE US FIRED A ROCKET LAUNCHER OR SOMETHING.
ROCKET!!
HE'S HOLED UP IN HIS ROOM. PROBABLY THINKING...
YEAH...
KACHAKACHA
THEY THINK THEY'VE FAILED, AND...
HM?
PERHAPS THEY WERE TRYING TO DISPOSE OF HIM?
KACHA KACHA
AND THEN THERE'S...
JUST WHAT AM I?
WHAT PRECISELY DOES IT MEAN THAT I'M... NOT IDEA?
!!
YOU DROPPED THE BAG--
BOOM!!
KYAAA!!
WAS SOMEONE SHOOTING AT US?
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?
...I MISSED?

WAIT! YOU'RE GONNA--
SLAM
EIRI!!
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AIMING AT ME.
I'M GONNA ASK THAT GUY WHO TRIED TO KILL ME.
DON'T WORRY. I HAVE A CLUE OF WHERE TO START.
ROSE, WAIT. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO--
SLAM
EIRI, WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE. THERE HAS BEEN AN INCIDENT.
SLAM
YES, YOUR GRACE?
BUT IT'S SOMETHING URGENT AROUND HERE, HUH?
EIRI!! A PHONE CALL FROM THE IMPERIAL PALACE!
!!
DAMN.
.....
I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL OVER HERE, MYSELF.
HUH?
I ALREADY KNOW.
...PLEASE, I BEG YOU TO LISTEN
I'M AFRAID OUR SITUATION IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT WE WENT AHEAD WITH SOMETHING WITHOUT TELLING YOU, AND—

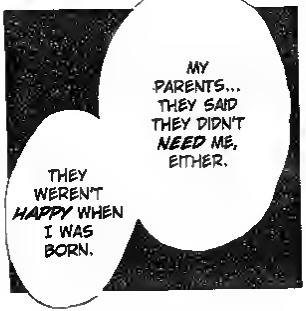
THIS POWER.
ROSE, MIGHT YOU--
JUST WASHED HIS HAIR.
...SO IT WAS RAINING EGGS.
UH--UM, EIRI!
!!
THUMP
HEY, ROSE--
UH...
SWOOSH
I'LL FIND OUT ON MY OWN! REALLY!
SWOOSH
WAHHH!!
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
GAH!

CLONE?!
THE CLONE YOU MADE OF IDEA ESCAPED.
WHAT?

"DISPOSE" OF HIM?
YOU WENT AHEAD AND DID IT WITHOUT INFORMING ME!
AFTER I TOLD YOU IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE!!
YES WE WERE...WE WERE GOING TO SHOOT HIM. YET HE RAN OUT, INTO THE CITY!
I AM SORRY, SIR! IT IS INEXCUSABLE!
WE SENT OUT SEVERAL MEN TO LOOK FOR HIM. YET HE STILL MANAGED TO GET AWAY!
SELF-ELECTING WOMAN
I SOLD EGGS TO EMPEROR, TOO!
NOW THERE ARE REPORTS BUBBLING AROUND--PEOPLE ARE SAYING THEY'VE SEEN IDEA.
YOU WERE CORRECT--WE COULDN'T MAKE HIM THE EXACT SAME PERSON AS IDEA.
IF WE DON'T DEAL WITH THIS IN A TIMELY MANNER, MASS CONFUSION WILL RESULT!!
THE WORK WAS A FAILURE--AND WHAT'S MORE, WHILE WE WERE... ATTEMPTING TO DISPOSE OF HIM, HE RAN AWAY FROM US!!

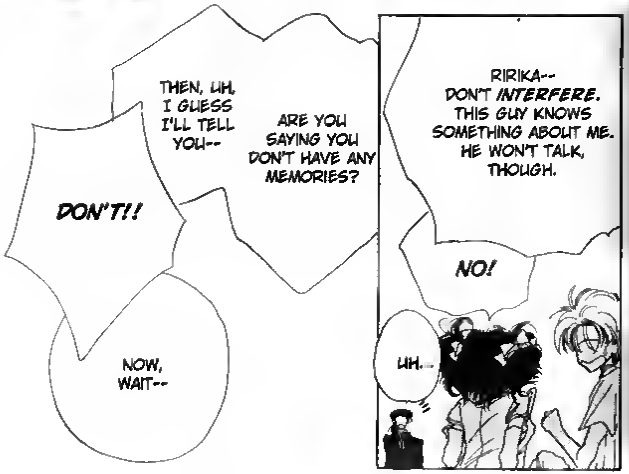
HE.. HAS NO CLUE WHAT HE... IS?
WHAT HIS CONNECTION IS TO... IDEA...
WAIT.
DON
??
RAT-A-TAT-A-TAT-TAT
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO TELL M-- WHOA!!
YO, ASSASSINS!
GAH

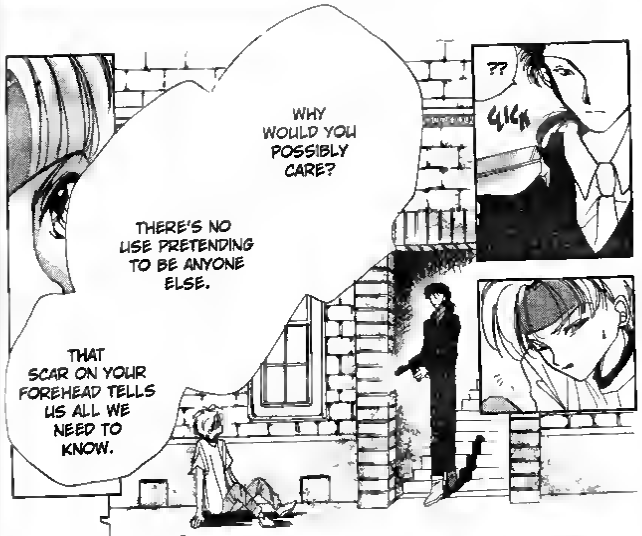
!!
SO SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU SIR, THOUGH WOULD YOU TAKE CARE OF THE CLONE FOR US?
AFTER ALL, YOU TWO ARE MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE CITY.
HE'S THE ..FAILED CLONE...?
RIRIKA...
AND ROSE... DOESN'T KNOW?
UM... HELLO?
YOUR GRACE! PLEASE RECONSIDER--
EIRI, THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT... ROSE, AREN'T THEY?



"UNNECESSARY?" WELL--

ROSE--
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
!
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?
RIRIKA?!


THEN, UH, I GUESS I'LL TELL YOU--
DON'T!!
NOW, WAIT--
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES?
RIRIKA-- DON'T INTERFERE. THIS GUY KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT ME. HE WON'T TALK, THOUGH.
NO!
UH...


WHY WOULD YOU POSSIBLY CARE?
THERE'S NO USE PRETENDING TO BE ANYONE ELSE.
THAT SCAR ON YOUR FOREHEAD TELLS US ALL WE NEED TO KNOW.
??
CLICK

DON'T TALK TO ROSE THAT WAY!!
WHAP-PWO
GHAA
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO BE ALIVE.
FWOOM

THEN THAT'S THE REASON...
MAN, DON'T PUT IT SO HARSHLY.
THERE'S GOT TO BE A NICER--
IT'S A FACT.
...I COULDN'T REMEMBER MY NAME.
...WELL.
BECAUSE I NEVER HAD ONE
I'M NOT IDEA I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT IDEA!!

YOU'RE A COPY OF IDEA, SEE.
A FAILED EXPERIMENT.
THEY WERE TRYING TO RESURRECT THE EMPEROR, AND THEY... FAILED.
"FAILED?"

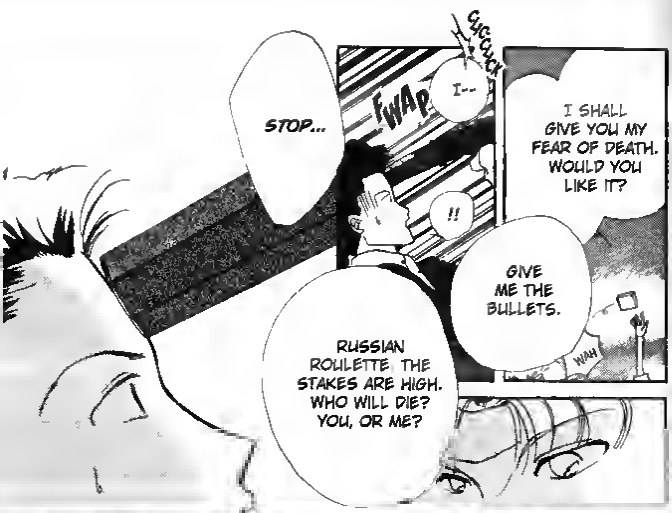
SEE! I DON'T KNOW IDEA; I'VE NEVER MET HIM. SO YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE THE EMPEROR IDEA—
NO, THE EMPEROR IDEA LOOKS LIKE YOU!!
.....YES.
SQUEEZE
EIRI!!
THAT, AND YOUR PERSONALITY IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM HIS.
TAP
ROSE--
YES! I'M NOT IDEA!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE! I'M ME!
I'VE GOTTA RUN AWAY FROM HERE.
RIRIKA--- I KNOW WHAT I AM NOW. I'M A FAKE IDEA.
I WAS NOWHERE.
AN APPARITION OF IDEA...
AND YET...
I WAS NOTHING.
...THE PERSON I MET WAS YOU.
ROSE..
YOU--- NOT IDEA. YOU!!

AND WHEN YOU TRIED TO TAKE HIM DOWN IN THE CITY, WHY DID YOU MISS? A PROFESSIONAL SUCH AS YOU HAS NO REASON TO MISS.
YOU'VE HEARD THEM TALKING ABOUT IT SO MUCH? DON'T YOU FIND IT STRANGE? THEY SHOT ROSE IN THE HEAD. THEY TRIED TO KILL HIM. YET HE DIDN'T DIE.
EIRI?
DON'T YOU FIND THIS MYSTERIOUS?
ROSE, DO YOU KNOW THE REASON WHY?
HUH?
NEXT TIME, I'LL KILL THIS LITTLE BRAT.
CLICK
IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE. HE JUST GOT LUCKY.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THE PALACE HAS GIVEN ORDERS! WE ARE TO DEAL WITH THE CLONE!!
I WAS IDEA'S BEST FRIEND.
TRUST ME--I KNEW IDEA. I'M NOT MISTAKEN.
ARE YOU SAYING WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER IDEA?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT IDEA--
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I ONLY EVER HELPED THEM BECAUSE IT WAS IDEA ON THE THRONE.
I TAKE ORDERS FROM NO ONE EXCEPT IDEA.
THE PALACE MEANS NOTHING TO ME.

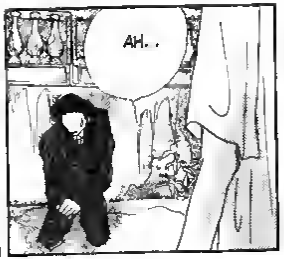
HUH?
KRRRR
CRUNCH
POP
GAHHHH

!!
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU KNOW, YOU LITTLE PUNK?
BANG
KYAAA
WHAT?
?!
ROSE!!


STOP...
I--
!!
I SHALL GIVE YOU MY FEAR OF DEATH. WOULD YOU LIKE IT?
GIVE ME THE BULLETS.
RUSSIAN ROULETTE. THE STAKES ARE HIGH. WHO WILL DIE? YOU, OR ME?

ROSE...
STOP!!
STOP!
BANG!!

GET HIM! IT'S THE FAILED IDEA CLONE!!
THIS IS THE SAME KIND OF GUN I WAS SHOT WITH BEFORE.


AH. .

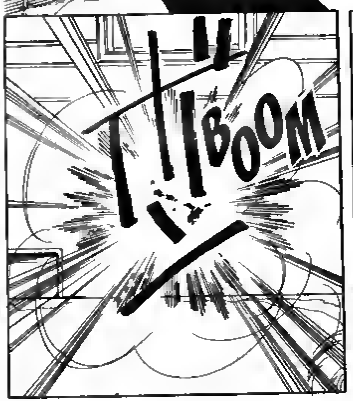
IT SEEMED I WAS ABLE TO STOP THE BULLETS, THEN.
WITH THE GUN BEFORE ME LIKE THAT, MY EYES WERE OPENED.

SWOOSH

NO WAY...
GOOD NIGHT.
BANG!!
WAAAAH!!
WE HAVE TO KILL HIM NO MATTER WHAT...

EMPEROR IDEA?

I MISSED.
!?


BOOM

TO BE ABLE TO BEND THE PATH OF A BULLET AT THAT SPEED IS A MAGNIFICENT POWER.
THE BULLET CURVED.
MAN, I'M A BAD SHOT
WHOOSH

WHAT A FOOL...
HE ALMOST REMINDS ME OF .

BEYOND THE YEAR 2500 A.D. HE APPEARED, TO UNITE THE WORLD-- THE EMPEROR IDEA.
AND NOT A MOMENT LATER, HE DIED.
TO PREVENT THE WORLD FROM FALLING INTO CONFUSION, THE ROYAL FAMILY MADE A CLONE OF IDEA
ROSE!!
THOUGH HE RESEMBLES IDEA IN APPEARANCE, HE POSSESSES NONE OF IDEA'S GREAT QUALITIES HE IS THOUGHT A FAILURE AND YET--
NOW HE LIVES WITH TWO CITIZENS OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL OF JIORIA...
AND YET THE CLONE RAN AWAY.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO CHANGE IT?
HEH HEH
...MAN, I SHOULD REALLY TAKE THE TIME TO THINK OF A NEW NAME.
NOT SOME GIRLY NAME LIKE "ROSE."
?
NOTHING.
THE EMPTY EMPIRE...
...IS WAITING FOR YOU.
THE EMPTY EMPIRE (PART ONE) / END